

House Resolution 2036

By: Representative Marin of the 96th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue
2 a United States postal stamp commemorating the heroism of the only all-Hispanic unit of
3 the United States Army, the 65th Infantry Regiment; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers," the 65th Infantry Regiment was created in
5 1899 by the United States Congress as a segregated unit composed primarily of Puerto
6 Ricans; and

7 WHEREAS, the Borinqueneer nickname originated from the word "Borinquen," the word
8 given to Puerto Rico by its original inhabitants, the Taino Indians; and

9 WHEREAS, with a motto of Honor and Fidelity, the 65th Infantry Regiment exemplified
10 valiant and courageous service, standing as guardians of this nation's freedom and liberty
11 during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War; and

12 WHEREAS, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment demonstrated a deep personal
13 commitment to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice their own personal safety
14 and comfort to ensure the well-being of their fellow man; and

15 WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers were recognized for their service during the Korean War
16 with a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two Republic of
17 Korea Unit Citations; and

18 WHEREAS, individual Borinqueneers earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 163 Silver
19 Stars, and 421 Bronze Stars, with more than 3,000 wounded and 600 killed in action; and

20 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans occupy a special place in the history of this nation and the United
21 States Army because of residents' ability to be drafted and serve in the military yet their
22 inability to vote in this country's elections; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1956, this regiment of dedicated soldiers was the last segregated unit to be
24 deactivated and became the only unit ever to be transferred from an active Army component
25 to the Puerto Rico National Guard; and

26 WHEREAS, over 20,000 Puerto Ricans have served as Borinqueneers since World War I,
27 and a commemorative United States stamp would be a fitting tribute to honor their often
28 unnoticed and unheralded sacrifices and contributions to this nation.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body urge the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States
31 Postal Service to issue a United States postal stamp commemorating the heroism of the only
32 all-Hispanic unit of the United States Army, the 65th Infantry Regiment.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Citizens Stamp Advisory
35 Committee of the United States Postal Service.